

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard E. Fichter (Reg. No. 26,382) on 12/16/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 37, line 11, before "carrier", insert --frictional--.

In claim 37, line 15, after "between the", change "friction" to --frictional--.

In claim 37, line 21, change "mm" to -- μ m--.

In claim 38, line 10, before "carrier", insert --frictional--.

In claim 38, line 17, after "detector", change "." to --;--.

In claim 38, line 19, after "drum", change "." to --;--.

In claim 38, line 22, after "passes", change "." to --;--.

In claim 38, line 25, before "ribbon", change "the" to --a--.

In claim 40, line 2, before "ribbon", change "a" to --the--.

In claim 53, line 6, before "plurality", change "the" to --a--.

In claim 54, line 5, before "plurality", change "the" to --a--.

In claim 55, line 1, change "38" to --43--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record, namely, Kamikubota et al. (US 5,529,413) and/or Takeda et al. (US 5,062,723) do not disclose, teach or suggest, wherein a friction coefficient between the frictional carrier drum and the recording medium and a friction coefficient between the recording medium and the auxiliary carrier members is set such that a ratio of the friction coefficient between the recording medium and the auxiliary carrier members to the friction coefficient between the frictional carrier drum and the recording medium is set to be 35% or less, wherein the contact length between the recording medium and the frictional carrier drum is a quarter or more of an outer circumference of the frictional carrier drum, and wherein an allowable deviation amount of a slip generated between the recording medium and the frictional carrier drum is kept within 75 μm , in combination with a frictional carrier drum, a recording medium guiding mechanism, and one or more auxiliary carrier members, as recited in independent claim 37.

Claims 39, 41, 45, 47, 49, 51 and 53 are allowed because they are dependent on independent allowed claim 37.

The closest prior art of record, namely, Kamikubota et al. (US 5,529,413) and/or Takeda et al. (US 5,062,723) do not disclose, teach or suggest, wherein the auxiliary carrier members are formed at four or more positions on a sheet feed roller of the outer circumferential surface of the frictional carrier drum; wherein, after the output from the detector, the output control means allows the thermal head to generate heat after time

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corresponding to a distance from the detector to the thermal head passes; wherein the output control means predicts a slip of the recording medium with reference to at least one of the kind and size of the recording medium, and an increase and decrease in tension of a ribbon, and finely adjusts the heating timing of the thermal head based on the slip, as claimed in claim 38.

Claims 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54 and 55 are allowed because they are dependent on independent allowed claim 38.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dov Popovici whose telephone number is 571-272-4083. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dov Popovici/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625